California GARDEN

MARCH-APRIL 2002 Volume 93 No. 2 $2.00

HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

In Mar. and Apr.
SANTA BARBARA BOTANIC GARDEN is sponsoring several interesting classes there and some trips and tours. For information: 805/682-4726.

Mar. 1-3 Fri.-Sun.
2002 SPRING HOME/GARDEN SHOW Outstanding garden speakers and exhibits including **"The Colors of Van Gogh"** by the Palomar District of CGCI. Del Mar Fairgrounds. Fri. noon-8:00p.m.; Sat. 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.; Sun. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. $10. visit www.SanDiegoHomeGardenShows.com.

Mar. 2 Sat.
★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY open from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri., also the first and third Saturdays. Members of SDFA can check out books. (Membership $10 a year, includes magazine.) Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 105. 619/232-5762.

Mar. 2 Sat.
WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Spring Vegetables. 9 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Free.

Mar. 2-3 Sat.-Sun.
OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SHOW. 11:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. both days. Demonstrations at 11:30, 1:00, and 2:30 each day. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

Mar. 3 Sun.
RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN California Arbor Day Lecture and Booksigning: "Coast Redwood-A Cultural and Natural History." 1:30-3:30 p.m. 1500 N. College Ave., Claremont, CA 91711. $7.

Mar. 4 Mon.
CGCI FLORAL DESIGN FORUM 2001-2002 Allen Nunn, a Freelance Designer from England. Carlsbad Women's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad. 12:30-3:00 p.m. $8 door. 760/749-9608.

Mar. 5 Tues.
★GOURD ETCHING AND BURNING SDFA class with Mary Jean Wydro. 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. See our ad for details.

Mar. 8 Fri.
CUYAMACA COLLEGE BOTANICAL SOCIETY 13th Annual Turf Management Seminar. 6:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Pre-registration recommended, $55. 619/660-4262.

Mar. 9 Sat.
CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY OF AMERICA 27th Annual Congress. Lectures and banquet. Info: 805/969-4536 or www.cymbidium.org.

Mar. 9 Sat.
LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB California Nativescapes Botanical Garden Guided Tour at San Diego Wild Animal Park. Meet at Nativescapes Garden entrance at 10:00 a.m. Free with admission. 858/487-2629.

Mar. 9 Sat.
SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM "Beginning to Garden with Herbs." Adult class. Learn to grow, harvest and creatively use herbs. Supplies included. 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. SDNHM members $25, non-members $29. 619/232-3821 ext. 203.

Mar. 9 Sat.
QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS "Backyard Wildlife Habitats Workshop." 9:30 a.m.-noon. Members $10, non-members $15. Pre-registration required. Ecke Building, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. 760/436-3036.

Mar. 9 Sat.
WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on General Orchid Care. 9 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Free.

Mar. 9-10 Sat.-Sun.
UC IRVINE ARBORETUM WINTER BULB FESTIVAL "Prelude to Spring." Sat. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Sun. 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Corner of Campus Drive and Jamboree Road on UCI North Campus. Non-members $2, members free. 949/824-5833.

Mar. 10, April 14 Sun.
MABEL CORWIN BRANCH OF AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY March "Propagating Rhizomatous Begonias." April "Creating Hanging Baskets with Begonias" 1:30-3:00 p.m. in the Ecke Bldg. at Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. Free.

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for 92 Years

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VOLUME 93 NUMBER 2

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MARCH-APRIL 2002

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BALBOA PARK VISITORS CENTER, HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY, 1549 El Prado, San Diego CA 92101
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FLOWER SHOWS: Show chairman contact *California Garden*, 619/232-5762 if you want the magazine sold at your show.

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Mar. 12 Tues.
★ALL GREEN FLOWER ARRANGEMENT SDFA class with Kathy and Marie Walsh. 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. **Reservations required by March 5th.** See our ad for details.

Mar. 15 Fri.
QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS "Easter Basket Workshop." 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Members $40, non-members $50. Pre-registration required. Ecke Building, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. 760/436-3036.

Mar. 15-17 Fri.-Sun.
SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY 56th Orchid Show and Sale. Fri. 6-10 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. General admission $5, children under 12 free. Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino del Rio South. 619/660-9810 or www.sdorchids.com.

Mar. 16 Sat.
★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY will be open. See Mar. 2 for details.

Mar. 16 Sat.
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY needs volunteer wrappers and arrangers for Daffodil bouquets. Call Gaby, 619/682-7422.

Mar. 16 Sat.
WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Citrus Care. 9 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Free.

Mar. 16-17 Sat.-Sun.
IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL-Chapter 119 34th Annual Spring Show: Sat. 11 a.m.- 5 p.m. Sun. 11:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free. 619/223-8879.

Mar. 18-19 Mon.-Tues.
COLORFUL DAFFODIL DAYS BOUQUETS Volunteer drivers are needed to deliver millions of daffodils to businesses, schools, and homes. The 19th Annual American Cancer Society Daffodil Days campaign raises money for cancer research, education, and patient services. Drivers can devote as much or as little time as they can afford to give and can be assigned locations within their own neighborhoods. For information, call Gaby 619/682-7422.

Mar. 19 Tues.
★GOURD BIRD HOUSE OR BIRD FEEDER SDFA class with Jewel Nagel. 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. $30. See our ad for details.

Mar. 22-24 Fri.-Sun.
THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS Bonsai Show. 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino. 626/405-2100. General admission.

Mar. 23 Sat.
WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Azaleas. 9 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Free.

Mar. 23-24 Sat.-Sun.
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOC. Sale of Seeds and Cuttings, Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. both days. Free. 619/443-4795.

Mar. 30 Sat.
★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ARRANGERS GUILD Spring Flower Show, "Spring is in the Air." 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

Mar. 30 Sat.
WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Water Gardening. 9 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Free.

Apr. 1 Mon.
CGCI FLORAL DESIGN FORUM 2001-2002 Robert Gordon speaking on "Color, Flowers and Design." Carlsbad Women's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad. 12:30-3:00 p.m. $8 Door. 760/749-9608.

Apr. 2 Tues.
★PLAIN OLD BASKET FROM NATURE SDFA class with Martha Rosenberg and Kathy Walsh. 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. $30 members, $35 non-members. See our ad for details.

Apr. 6 Sat.
★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY will be open. See Mar. 2 for details.

Apr. 6 Sat.
MIRACOSTA HORTICULTURE CLUB OF OCEANSIDE Sixth Annual Gardeners' Market Plant Sale. 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the west Oceanside Wal-Mart store, 2100 Vista Way at the Jefferson exit. 760/643-0177.

Apr. 6 Sat.
SAN DIEGO HOME GARDENING SEMINAR Sponsored by Master Gardener Association. Marina Village Conference Center. 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. **Registration deadline March 26.** $33.00 for 4 seminars. 858/694-2860 or www.mastergardenerssandiego.org.

Apr. 6 Sat.
WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Spring Lawn Care. 9 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Free.

Apr. 9 Tues.

★BAMBOO VASES class with Kathy Walsh. 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. $25. See our ad for details.

Apr. 10 Wed.

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB "Bonita in Bloom" Garden Tour and Luncheon. For information call Lauren Pugsley 619/470-0282.

Apr. 13 Sat.

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB California Nativescapes Botanical Garden Guided Tour at San Diego Wild Animal Park. Meet at Nativescapes Garden entrance at 10:00 a.m. Free with admission. 858/487-2629.

Apr. 13 Sat.

RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB "Come To Our Garden Party." A Tour of Four Gardens, Horticultural Display, Luncheon Buffet and Plant Sale. Shuttle leaves at 10:00 a.m. **Reservations required.** $25 members, $35 for nonmembers. Mail check to Rancho Sante Fe Garden Club, c/o Donna Ferrier, P.O. Box 2411, Rancho Sante Fe, CA 92067. 858/756-1554.

Apr. 13 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Plant Propagation Basics. 9 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Free.

Apr. 13-14 Sat.-Sun.

CORONADO FLOWER SHOW 77th Annual Flower Show "Expressions of Nature" in Spreckles Park. Sat. 1-5:30 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4 p.m. 619/435-8976. $3 adults, children and CFA members free.

Apr. 13-14 Sat.-Sun.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Herb Festival and Plant Sale. 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. 760/436-3036 or qbgardens.com.

Apr. 14 Sun.

RANCHO SANTE FE GARDEN CLUB Horticultural exhibits, junior exhibits and plant sale. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. 17025 Avenida de Acasias, Rancho Santa Fe. Free.

Apr. 16 Tues.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. 6:30 p.m. dessert and beverage. 7:00 p.m. meeting, speaker Jim Stelluti, "The Practical and Artistic Arrangement of Objects in the Landscape". Free.

Apr. 16, 23, 30 Tues.

★THREE-SESSION FLOWER ARRANGING SDFA class. Prepare for Art Alive and spring flower shows. $45 members, $50 non-members. See our ad for details.

Apr. 18 Thurs.

2002 HORTICULTURISTS OF THE YEAR BANQUET honoring Bruce and Sharon Asakawa. Also being honored are "Daffodil Lady," Sally Snipes and Betty Bowman. 6-10 p.m. For tickets and information, 619/660-4262.

Apr. 20-21 Sat.-Sun.

EXOTIC PLANT SOCIETY Annual Show and Sale. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. both days. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101.

Apr. 20 Sat.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY will be open. See Mar. 2 for details.

Apr. 20 Sat.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Bamboo Sale. 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. 760/436-3036 or qbgardens.com.

Apr. 20 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Staghorn Ferns, Care and Remounting. 9 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Free.

Apr. 20-21 Sat.-Sun.

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB 71st Annual Standard Flower Show "America The Beautiful" Fallbrook Community Center, 341 Heald Lane, Fallbrook. Sat. 2-6 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 760/728-6373.

Apr. 21. Sun.

GARDENS OF THE ARROYO Self-guided tour of six fabulous gardens and art exhibition in Sierra Madre near Pasadena. See www.creativeartsgroup.org for details or call 626/355-8350.

Apr. 27 Sat.

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB "Through The Garden Gate" Fourth Annual self-guided walking tour in historic Mission Hills featuring 15-20 gardens. Advance tickets: $12, day of event $18. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tour starts at Mission Hills Nursery, 1525 Fort Stockton, San Diego. 619/291-8800.

Apr. 27 Sat.

CROWN GARDEN CLUB presents "Over The Garden Gate." Coronado Backyard Garden Tours & Art Exhibitions. Five local artists display their works at five award winning private gardens. 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., $10. 619/435-3880 or email: hobnob@msn.com.

Apr. 27 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Cymbidium Orchid Repotting. 9 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Free.

Apr. 27-28 Sat.-Sun.

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB Flower Show. "Lighter Side of Gardening." Sat. 1:30-5:30 p.m., Sun. 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Bell Gardens Adobe House, Cole Grade Rd. Valley Center. 760/749-5384 or 760/749-6297 for directions.

Apr. 27-28 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB 38th Annual Spring Show. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. both days. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Bonsai trees, pots, accesories, and plants for sale. Free.

May 3 Fri.

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB 14th Annual Spring Gardens on Tour. Five gardens in Escondido, Poway, and Rancho Bernardo. 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. $10 tax deductible donation benefits California Nativescapes Botanical Garden in the San Diego Wild Animal Park. **Mail checks before Apr. 22** to Lake Hodges Native Plant Club c/o D. Zimmer, 1428 Via Valente, Escondido, CA 92029 Enclose SASE. For info call 760/743-8207 or 858/487-0464.

May 3-5 Fri.-Sun.

CHIRP FOR GARDEN WILDLIFE, INC. Fifth Annual "Sage & Songbirds Festival and Garden Tours." 10:00 a.m-4:00 p.m. all three days, seven self-guided tours of beautiful habitat gardens. Cost $10. Festival includes garden vendors, live bird exhibits, educational seminars, and more. Sat.-Sun. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Live butterflies in 1,000 sq. ft. walk-in enclosure. Sat. evening 6:00-8:00 p.m., "Twilite Waterfront Jazz Concert and Fiesta Dinner." Cost $22 per person, $40 per couple **by Apr. 20**. For information, call CHIRP Habitat Hut 619/445-7675.

May 4-5 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY 74th Annual Show, "2002 The Year of the Rose, Our Diamond Jubilee." Balboa Park Club Building. Sat. 1-5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Includes educational speakers and consulting rosarians. $2.50, children w/adult, free 619/463-6977.

BALBOA PARK

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN Open Tues. thru Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Docent tours with reservations. Fee. 619/232-2721.

OFFSHOOT TOURS Ranger guided. Various topics. Saturdays 10:00 a.m. Meet at Visitors Center in Plaza de Panama. 619/235-1121. Free.

INTERPRETIVE WALKS Ranger guided. History oriented topics. Meet at Visitors Center in Plaza de Panama. Tuesdays and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. Free.

ONGOING EVENTS

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM Canyoneer Walks. Sat-Sun. Sept-June. 619/232-3821 ext 203 or www.sdnhm.org for locations, times and directions. Free.

SAN DIEGO ZOO ORCHID ODYSSEY. Third Friday of every month from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., showcasing orchids from Papua New Guinea, Central and South America, Africa, Thailand, Australia, China, and Vietnam. Free with Zoo admission.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Garden Tours & Events. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. 760/436-3036 or (www.qbgardens.com). General Admission.

BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE Walks. Poway. Sat. & Sun. 9:00 a.m. 858/679-5469.

WALKABOUT INTERNATIONAL Local Guided Walks. Newsletter. 619/231-SHOE. Free.

CUYAMACA COLLEGE Water Conservation Garden Landscape Seminar on 2nd Saturday of each month. 9:30 a.m. Docent tours Sat. 10:30 a.m. and Sun. 1:30 p.m. 619/660-0614. Free.

THE HUNTINGTON is open Tuesday through Friday noon to 4:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed Monday and most holidays. $10 adults, $8.50 seniors, $7 students (12-18), under 12 and members free. Group rate (10+) $8. First Thursday of each month free to all visitors. 626/405-2100 or www.huntington.org.

GARDENING CLASSES

BETTY NEWTON

9-WEEK COURSE

Flower Gardens: Year-Round Color With Annuals, Perennials, Bulbs and Old Fashioned Roses.

Beginning April 9 Tues.

Grossmont High School. 6:20 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Room 51. 1100 Murray Dr. La Mesa. $15. 619/644-8218 or 619/401-4122

Beginning April 11 Thurs.

Foothills Adult Center. 8:50 a.m.-Noon. Room 12. 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. $15.

Deadline for submission to **HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR** for MAY-JUNE issue is MARCH 15. **SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** is not responsible for changes that are submitted late by the organizations.

JOY IN FINDING RARE PLANTS! Where to Go

BY BETTY NEWTON

TO SAY CONNIE AZHOCAR, a longtime gardener living in National City, has a taste for the unusual is an understatement. Friends and I were invited down to see the *Oxera pulchella* blooming on the east-west fence, heavy with the 2-inch waxy white bells. I will drive to National City for *Oxera*. I had only seen it once before in my life and know it is hard to propagate.

It turns out Connie's yard is graciously landscaped with rare plants. Now that is a trick. Many plant people crave odd plants, or little-seen plants, but which of them carefully combine them for an attractive small-scale landscape. I think it takes restraint and discipline even while you are adding more to your garden. Connie prunes so that her plants have places to be admired.

After being introduced from plant to plant and taking many pictures it seemed to my friends and me that the *other* unique story here was where Connie got her plants. We are regular drop in browsers at many of San Diego County's most fascinating nurseries. And here she was, with only a few years on us, talking of nurseries we had never heard of.

I twisted Connie's arm and asked that she share with *California Garden* readers the addresses of these places she loves to buy plants—places she finds her unusual ones. Let us start with the farthest away:

San Gabriel Nursery and Florist, 632 S. San Gabriel Boulevard in San Gabriel; her friends love it because it is so *big*. I believe this is an old established nursery that propagates many flowering fruit trees for Southern California.

The Festival of Plants, the sale called "Baldwin Bonanza," held each spring at the Arboretum of Los Angeles County in Arcadia. Connie bought her *Combretum coccineum* from Madagascar there. (You recall *Combretum fruticosum*, the 7-inch flower suggesting a spreading heavy toothbrush on a good vine.)

At Fullerton Arboretum she has found wonderful things at the annual "Green Scene Garden Show." A money raiser, it is twenty-five dollars general admission, but free to members. The Arboretum is at Associated Road at Yorba Linda Boulevard one block west of the 57 Freeway, 714-278-3579. The show this year will be 27-28 April.

M & M Nursery 380 N. Tustin Avenue, in Orange, Orange County, 714-538-8042. This is between Katella and Chapman Avenues. Connie finds double and triple-petaled hybrid Dutch amaryllis and statuary there.

The mall in Costa Mesa called Crystal Court (3333 Bear Street) hosts a "Spring Garden Show" sponsored by *Sunset* magazine. Connie reports there are one hundred vendors from all over the world on sale day throughout the lower level of the mall, "It is paradise." The sale and show this year is 11-14 April (714-435-2160).

Closer to home is Buena Creek Gardens, 418 Buena Creek Road, off Twin Oaks Valley Road, San Marcos. She feels this is another gardeners' paradise. That is where she found her yellow-flowering *Justicia* that grows well in partial shade.

We could tell from Connie Azhocar's garden that her comment of "I just want to go!" was true.

At Mission Hills Nursery, 1525 Fort Stockton Drive in San Diego, she found her all-white *Clerodendrum*. She likes plant sales at nearby Plaza Bonita, too and includes sales held with the weekend flower and plant shows in Balboa Park.

This gardener's gift for finding the unusual is not to be thwarted. She suggests, with this shared list, places for us to explore. May we have as much fun, grow our plants, and combine them as graciously as she has. □

WAFA SHOW & FLORIADE

JUNE 3 — 17, 2002

This will be an exceptional, once-in-a-lifetime, artistic and horticultural experience. Following a brief tour and a visit to the huge, unique flower and garden exhibit FLORIADE in Holland, we will explore famous gardens plus test gardens in England. Our tour will end in Glasgow, Scotland for the World Association of Flower Arrangers (WAFA) show that features exhibits and demonstrations by renowned flower arrangers from around the world.

The land tour price of $2365 (double occupancy) includes first class hotel accommodations, breakfasts and most dinners, admissions. A professional Tour Manager will be with us throughout the tour. For more information call:

MARGARET COOK 619-222-0383
FLEETRIDGE TRAVEL

WHY SHOULD NATIVES SEEM SO EXOTIC?

BY GREG RUBIN

"NATIVE PLANTS! YOU WANT ME TO USE WHAT?", I exclaimed in response to my brother Ed's suggestion, "I want an ornamental landscape, not some scruffy, hideous thing." I remembered fondly the Japanese gardens I used to do as a kid, barely one step ahead of inevitable St. Bernard annihilation. "You can put your native plants over there," I said, pointing to the back corner of the yard, hidden by a wall. Ed's friend Bill just shook his head. Neither they (nor I) had any idea how profoundly this innocuous suggestion would alter the course of my life.

Bill took me to Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden in Claremont. It is eighty-six acres of incredibly beautiful California native landscapes. My attitude underwent profound reversal. I landscaped my parents' backyard in natives. This was my penance for being allowed to live at home while studying engineering in college. We came in second in a local *Sunset* magazine garden contest.

I continued landscaping for friends and family despite my engineering career. Ten years in aerospace and four patents later, passion overwhelmed practicality and I finally gave in to my desire. I became a licensed native plant landscape contractor. Boy, was my father mad. I have no regrets.

What drives such passion? Watching the hills where I grew up get turned into suburban mega-mesas. Watching San Diego become South Florida, where sweet scented chaparral soil is turned into water saturated, foul smelling, algae-covered palm tree floral foam. Knowing that the abundant horny toads we played with as children are nearly extinct. And knowing that much better is possible.

So why did I think natives were so ugly? I had seen that brown, dusky, dead grass look on the hillsides. Only I didn't realize that I was looking at a moonscape, a far cry from pre-European California. Frequent fires, non-native pasture grasses, weeds, and grazing had turned a lush mediterranean velvet carpet into a burned-up, dried-out hulk. Scenes like this were driving misconceptions about the suitability of natives for home landscaping.

Yet we are far from repulsed by the likes of Julian, Idyllwild, Sonoma, or Torrey Pines. These small remnants of a majestic California inspire us. Nature can be the best teacher. And it is nature's cues that we must follow when creating attractive, sustainable natural landscapes.

What I saw in the wild often read like Garden Design 101. Overall form was very important. Evergreen plants were massed in groups, defined more by foliar texture and shading than by floral contrast. Usually flowers were icing on the cake, better suited to close-up viewing. Rocks seemed an integral part of the native landscape, as was the ½ inch layer of duff that carpeted the ground. I wondered if that were why there were apparently no annual weeds present in healthy stands.

Later experience, research, and a mentor named Bert Wilson (owner of Las Pilitas Native Nursery) taught me the underlying significance of these observations. Everything learned in ornamental horticulture flew out the window. For instance, understanding the relationship between plants became crucial. Native plants are highly symbiotic. The roots of the plant community are connected like one giant organism through mycorrhizal fungi in the soil. This massive (but shallow) biomass effectively increases the root systems of the individual plants by ten thousand times. Its primary function is to metabolize nutrients from inorganic soils and the duff

layer forming on top of the soil. It has the added benefit of providing drought and stress tolerance, as well as a quasi-immuno-response to disease and alien invaders (i.e., weeds). Unfortunately, this fungal "grid" is easily destroyed by soil disturbance (tilling) organic matter mixed into the soil (amendments), high fertility, and intensive watering methods (drip).

Successful native design requires an approach beyond simple decoration. Putting palo verde next to manzanita and non-native *Rhaphiolepis* (Believe me, I have seen it!) is a prescription for disaster, despite whatever "feel" or "texture" or "effect" the designer may have been after. Besides, they just do not feel or look right together. Put that palo verde with apricot mallow, desert penstemon, fairy duster, and brittle bush, however, and you end with a design that feels right and is biologically stable.

About five species from a given plant community provide enough biodiversity to create a stable planting. A combination of toyon, manzanita, ceanothus, fremontia [Fremontodendron], and bush poppy would create a stunning, evergreen, neat chaparral garden that is drought tolerant and self-sustaining. Add a few perennials along paths like foothill penstemon, hummingbird fuchsia, goldenbush, California poppies, and monkey flower, and you have a non-stop floral display for the entire year. The only maintenance required would be dead-heading of the perennials and occasional weeding the first year. Perennials are placed close to the path for this reason.

This same concept carries through for different plant communities: lemonade berry, coyote brush, mountain mahogany, toyon, ornamental buckwheat, and sage are excellent for the skeleton of a coastal sage scrub garden. Color spots along paths might include monkey flower, California fuchsia, golden yarrow, spectacular penstemon, ground-cover sages, and poppies. If you prefer oak woodland, try coast live oak paired with toyon, redberry, currant, gooseberry, native honeysuckle, and hummingbird sage. Or how about mixed evergreen forest, with canyon live oak, Coulter pine, redbud, California bush anemone, and manzanita? These would all be gardens of considerable beauty and habitat value that give up nothing to the palm and agapanthus crowd. Realize, however, that the farther away you get from your native site, the more "artificial life support" may be required to help sustain the community (usually more water or different watering schedules).

One also has to pay attention to infrastructure when setting up native gardens. Coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and evergreen forest all love organic mulches (on TOP of the soil, not mixed in, please). **The very best is shredded redwood bark, which lasts seven to ten years on the ground, holds its color, and does not break down so quickly that it ends up saturating the soil with fertility and messing up your planting.** Stay away from dump mulches, if possible. On the other hand, desert, coastal strand, and grassland communities like inorganic rock mulches. Regardless of plant community, you can usually be safe by putting a few 6-12-inch boulders right up against your plants, which protect them, keep the roots cool, and do not crown rot them.

Irrigation for natives is a practical matter. **Unless you are doing a marsh or streamside woodland, stay away from drip!** The drought-tolerant communities absolutely hate wet feet, while Mother Nature usually provides moisture from above. **It is an absolute fallacy that you cannot provide overhead water to native plants;** sprinklers, especially rotary sprays, are wonderful at emulating rainfall. Try to mimic natural rainfall patterns and quantities as well. Desert communities are unusual in that they want summer water about every two weeks, but dry winter (think of where most summer thunderstorms occur). Every other community out to the coast wants wet winter, dry summer. **If you have had a dry winter, you want to**

really douse the garden in April. These plants love a little summer moisture as well, but only enough to wet the leaves and mulch. DO NOT soak the warm soil! This is asking for pathogens. A light cleansing shower, however, imitates summer thunderstorms or fog drip and is very appropriate. Dust and grime can be real enemies.

When planting natives, follow a few simple rules. **Do not add organic soil amendments.** This will shift the ecology of your garden immediately away from clean, inorganic fungal-based soils to bacterial rot. The plants may respond like they are on steroids in the short term. But the planting will ultimately be unstable with 60-100% losses over the next two to three years. You are much better off matching plants to the soil than trying to "improve" what you have. If you suspect a real problem ("I have never been able to grow anything in that spot."), pull a soil analysis and add topical dressings only (such as potassium sulfate granules). Water them in, do not till. If it is really bad, stick a boulder on top of it.

Dig a hole, put the plant in it, backfill around the root ball, and pack the soil with hands and feet. Remember not to plant any deeper than the original soil level in the pot. Now water, water, water—10-30 gallons per 1-gallon plant. This is the most important watering your native plant will ever receive. Not only does it hydrate the soil, but more importantly it removes the air pockets from around the root ball. Once the plants are all in, we usually put rocks around them, sprinkle pre-emergent to discourage annual weeds, mulch, and then turn on the overhead sprays for six to twelve hours. We usually do not have to touch the site again for one to two weeks. For the first year, water when the soil under the mulch is dry about an inch down. **Never fertilize your garden, ever.**

From here, enjoy your native landscape and watch the birds and butterflies flock to your garden while your neighbors are busily mowing their lawns. □

Greg Rubin started working with native plants in 1985 and by 1993 was able to start his unusual landscaping business, California's Own Native Landscape Design. He regularly gives presentations on native plants to garden clubs. Telephone 760-746-6870, FAX 760-746-3420, email calown@pacbell.net

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SINGING THE WOOLLY BLUES©

BY PAT PAWLOWSKI

I'VE NEVER FELT MORE like singing the blues, especially now that they are blooming happily in my yard. To be more accurate, I must say instead that I am singing ABOUT the blues—and to be even more accurate, botanically speaking—I am singing about woolly blue curls, casually known by the intelligentsia as *Trichostema lanatum*.

If you have ever seen them growing wildly in the wilds, you know that woolly blues can capture your heart with their other-worldly, bodaciously blue blossoms and their flagrantly fragrant leaves and flowers.

As advertised, woolly blue blossoms are the richest, deepest blue you can imagine; the blue of crystal palace lobelia (*Lobelia erinus* 'Crystal Palace'); the blue of the perennial morning glory (*Ipomoea acuminata*) in the morning; the blue of the California desert bluebell (*Phacelia campanularia*); the background blue of my computer screen, without words to mar it.

Besides color, this diminutive native shrub has other interesting features. Like males everywhere, the four stamens (the male reproductive parts of a flower) audaciously thrust themselves forward, unapologetically, to grasp your attention; they project one full inch from the less-than-one-inch-long flowers. In addition, the flowers obstinately insist on growing from the side of the stem where there are no leaves (woolly blues are from the mint family, Lamiaceae, the stems of whose members are square). The flower parts are covered by tiny hairs, giving an impression of wool; thus, before the buds open, they appear to be tiny, woolly curls of blue. They make you want to squeeze them gently for some reason.

The thin, medium-green leaves grow in pairs on three sides of the squared stem, and may remind you of rosemary. However, there the similarity ends; woolly blue curls have a scent all their own. It is a scent that means different things to different people: to some it smells mint-like; to some it smells sage-like; to some it smells like grape bubble gum. Eschewing chewing it, however, early settlers instead used the leaves to treat bruises.

BLUES FEVER

I cannot remember how I first got the blues fever; perhaps it was on a hike in a chaparral or coastal sage scrub habitat. What I do remember is purchasing a plant about five or six years ago, planting it in my clay-like soil, and then watching it swiftly expire. At the wake (we're talking serious gardening here) several acquaintances remarked about the "sensitivity" of woolly blues, that they (the plants) had willful and perverse natures, that the more that woolly blues were coddled by the gardener, the more determined they were not to live.

Eventually I realized I had probably loved my woolly blues plant to death; there I was first thing in the morning, hovering over it, breathing excitedly (enough reason right there to cause some species to die), looking for signs of woolliness, waiting to see the evidence of a bloom, and giving it a little extra water. Since it had been planted in clay-like soil, I should have watered it sparingly if at all; this native plant likes extremely well-draining, sandy soil. It also likes full sun (and there I was, hovering, probably blocking the sunlight). Note that after this plant is established, it needs no supplemental watering.

However, I am now living in an area with sandy soil and currently own three healthy, happy blues that do get water that percolates down from wetter areas, and they are doing fine. It may be that my well-draining soil is the reason. Or it may be that I have achieved a devil-may-care attitude; as you other gardeners know, the more you care, the more it is likely to die.

WOOLLY BEES

Oh, honey! Woolly blue curls (is, are) a major honey plant. I wish I were a beekeeper—I would have a field of woolly blues just for the bees. Wonder what scrumptious nuance the plant would give to honey. Wouldn't it be nice to find out?

A bee has to work really hard to collect pollen from woolly blue curls, since the anthers that hold the pollen are at the tip of those extra-long stalks, or filaments, that sway with the slightest suggestion of a breeze. And when the bee tries to obtain nectar, the stigma, part of the female sex organ, may hit her on the back. Sometimes it is not easy being a bee.

HUMMING THE BLUES

Woolly blues attract bees, and birds, too. Hummingbirds lust after the nectar in the flowers. It is wonderful to see them flit around from flower to flower. One day I decided to see what the fuss was about; I slipped down to where my woollies were growing, picked a blossom, bit off the end and tried the nectar. A neighbor passed by, walking a dog. He made no comment.

The sweet juice was delectable. I wondered about the taste of the leaves. It was then I remembered a recipe I had seen for . . .

WOOLLY BLUE TEA

In an entertaining little book called *A Taste of Nature*, written and illustrated by Kahanah Farnsworth, there is a recipe for Woolly Blue Curl Tea. In early December I decided to make some, and ventured out to get a few flowers and some leaves. Amazingly enough, on several woolly blue plants, there were some actual flowers still blooming, probably because of the bit of extra moisture they receive from hobnobbing with the plants that do get watered.

I gathered my ingredients and made the tea according to instructions: I placed a few of the flowers and a sprig of new leaves from the tip of a branch into a mug. I then added boiling water and let the greens steep for about ten minutes. I was then rewarded with a clear, pale, champagne-colored liquid that had a lovely light, minty taste and a soft, sweet, delicate aroma. It tasted pretty good.

As I sipped my woolly blue tea, I remembered another fact the book had mentioned: Native Americans used to mash the leaves of woolly blues and would throw them into shallow water to stupefy fish. I must say that after sipping the delicious brew I was no more stupefied than usual.

THE BLUES BROTHERS

A close, perhaps somewhat crabby relative of woolly blue curls is a plant called vinegar weed (*Trichostema lanceolatum*). There are several differences between the two species: (1) Woolly blues have a perennial personality—it is classified as a shrub and thus will stick around in your garden year after year, if you treat it right. Vinegar weed, being an annual, will be long gone next year, although there is always a chance a seedling or more may pop up. (2) The flowers of woolly blues are bluer than those of vinegar weed. (3) Because of its more attractive habit and longer life, you are more likely to encounter woolly blue curls at a nursery.

GETTING THE BLUES

Got the blues because you do not know where to get those other blues? Not to worry. There is a great native plant nursery called Las Pilitas Nursery in Escondido; or if you feel like driving up to check on the swallows, you can stop at Tree of Life in San Juan Capistrano. Or you might try Walter Andersen's Nursery or City Farmers Nursery. While they might not be able to give you the blues, they probably can order you the blues.

And having the blues, whether you like to sing about them or not, can make you very happy.□

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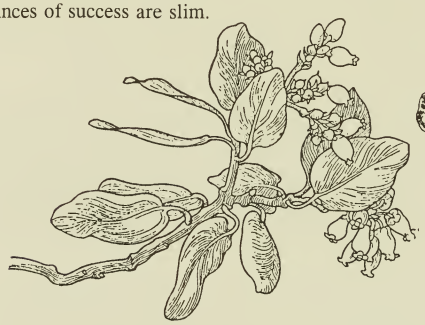
PROPAGATION OF DIFFICULT NATIVES

BY JEANINE DE HART

LAST MONTH I WROTE about the easy to propagate natives. How about the difficult to propagate natives? I will discuss a few of these.

Manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos* ssp.) are difficult from cuttings or from seed. I have had success from seed by using sulfuric acid, which is definitely not recommended for the home gardener. A friend of mine had some success using Coke! It is worth trying. We know that Coca-Cola is quite acidic. I think an overnight soak would be about right. Bottom heat will work for rooting cuttings of manzanitas. Without bottom heat, your chances of success are slim.



Arctostaphylos (manzanita)

There has been some research concerning the use of willow "tea" as a treatment for rooting cuttings. I have not tried this yet, but there are lots of willows in the wild. I think steeping a handful of leaves and dipping the cuttings into that would be worth trying.

Another difficult plant to propagate is the bush poppy (*Dendromecon rigida*). If you are lucky enough to have bottom heat, cuttings will not prove to be too difficult. Use a rooting hormone for difficult plants. If you do not have access to bottom heat, then seeds are the answer. There are lots of *D. rigida* in San Diego county and they produce lots of seed. The trick with the seed is to soak them for 30 minutes in Coleman fuel. You read that correctly. I do not know why it works, but it does.

Woolly blue curls *(Trichostema lanatum*) is another worthwhile native that is difficult to propagate and difficult to grow. It does fine where it occurs in the wild, but looks brown and ugly in the summertime. As gardeners, we tend not to like brown and ugly so we water it to green up the leaves. Now it no longer looks brown and ugly . . . it looks dead! It is difficult from cuttings but with a rooting hormone for difficult plants and many cuttings, you should get one or two to root. Seed are a lot more difficult as most seed that are produced are not viable.

Fremontodendron mexicanum

The last difficult one we will discuss is the flannel bush (*Fremontodendron californicum* or *F. mexicanum*). The seed are very difficult to work with as they are covered with hair that itches like handling fiberglass. This is another plant that can be successfully rooted with bottom heat, but a problem without it.

If you are serious about propagating difficult species, I would recommend investing in a heat blanket for cuttings. They are available at horticulture supply houses. You need to buy the controller also. They are not very large but big enough to do all the cuttings a home gardener would need.

If you do not have a mist system, be prepared to squirt the leaves of the cuttings several times a day—or better yet—plant in small pots in damp perlite and encase in plastic. This will keep the humidity high and the perlite will keep mold from growing as it is a sterile medium. Good luck and happy growing. □

Jeanine De Hart, at age fifty, graduated from SDSU with a degree in botany in order to pursue a career in the native plants of California.

Dendromecon rigida illustration by Roland S. Hoyt, *Fremontodendron* illustration by Alfred C. Hottes.

WHICH TREE SHOULD IT BE?
Four Trees for Your Neighborhood

BY DREW POTOCKI

I AM THE URBAN FORESTER for the City of San Diego, from a sTREEt division perspective that is. Our responsibilities include street sweeping, pothole and sidewalk repair, and since 1995, the over all jurisdiction for the care of our urban street trees. We like to call them "neighborhood trees."

While a forester is normally thought of as the guy in the far off woods, I walk the forest of the streets of San Diego. The trees we care for are known by many names, some botanical, some not so botanical, if they're causing someone problems.

But that is another story.

Why plant trees? Well more and more is becoming known about neighborhood trees, and they are not seen just as a pretty pinstripe on the road any longer. They reduce pollution by taking in carbon dioxide and putting out oxygen and by filtering particulates in the air. They also reduce urban stormwater runoff, directly helping to clean our bays and beaches. They increase property values, hide overhead utility wires and save us dollars in energy costs. And the right tree in the right location is indeed beautiful. On the other hand, even Kate Sessions knew not to plant a *Ficus* tree near a sidewalk.

Gold Medallion Tree

So, which tree is it going to be? The four trees listed here are the most popular choices for smaller planting areas.

The Gold Medallion Tree (*Cassia leptophylla*)

This tree thrives in full sun making it an ideal neighborhood tree. It grows to a height of twenty-five feet and produces bright yellow flowers. If there are overhead power lines, this tree will grow high enough to screen the wires yet stay a safe distance from the high voltage. Always look before you plant and avoid any low hanging wires.

The gold medallion has been planted in Mission Hills, on Park Boulevard, on Garnet Avenue in Pacific Beach, and between the jacarandas in Coryell Pass. Light trimming during the first three to five years will correct any young deformities. With adequate waterings, this tree is typically established within three to five years.

Hong Kong Orchid Tree (*Bauhinia blakeana*)

This tree is one of the best bloomers and will do well in both full sun and partial shade. Mature height is around twenty feet making it ideal for a small patio area or tight parkway strip. On a well cared for tree, flowers are present almost year round. Leaf drop is around late May causing some folks a double take; however, by mid- June new leaves are developing. The glory of the flowers compensates for the unwelcome pods produced following them. This is another good choice for beneath overhead utility wires or yard accent.

Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*)

This is another fine choice for tight parkway strips, accent, or just for the beautiful flower. Many choices of showy colors, including purple, pink, white, and red are available at most quality nurseries. This tree does not like damp air so choose one of these others, if problems with mildew are anticipated. Varieties continue to be improved making use closer to the coast possible. The fall leaf color is red orange with a finale of gold.

Raywood Ash (*Fraxinus angustifolia (oxycarpa)* 'Raywood')

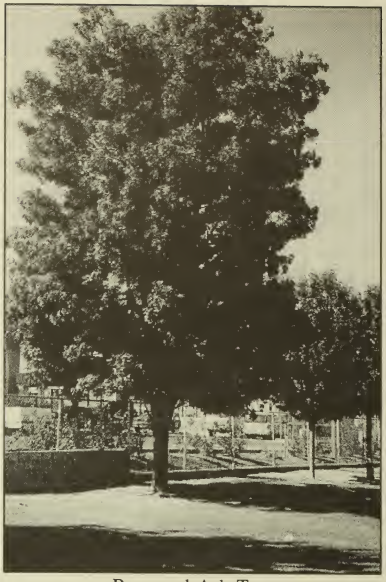
This is the largest of the four trees discussed here; it is sometimes called garnet ash. While its flowers are inconspicuous, I felt this tree had to be highlighted for its fall rich, red color. It is perfect for an area where a

Crape Myrtle Tree

tree with fall color such as the American sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) is desired, but adequate root expansion cannot be accommodated. This tree looks like the typical, classic tree and functions well by the street. There are plantings from one to five years old on major streets such as Sunset Cliffs Boulevard and Voltaire in Ocean Beach, and Moraga Avenue in Clairemont Mesa.

Planting a tree can be fun and last for a lifetime of enjoyment. Species selection is very important and can be as difficult as choosing carpet with your spouse. So do the research before you plant. Consult a local nursery, Cooperative Extension, or knowledgeable neighbor for the care a particular tree might require. Many new and exiting web sites feature details and photos of the trees mentioned here as well as hundreds of others. If trees are going to be planted along the street, contact your local government agency responsible for maintenance of the right of way. Permits are normally needed prior to planting a street tree. That agency can provide lists of species allowed and even tell you where your sewer pipe is located.

If, in your as in many communities, neighborhood street tree plans have not been developed, opportunity exists to plant a whole street full of one or all of the trees listed in this article.



Raywood Ash Tree

The nonprofit Urban Forestry Organization, People for Trees, works to provide free trees throughout San Diego. To find out about free tree programs in your neighborhood call them at 619-222-8733.

California Polytechnic Institute offers an outstanding website featuring hundreds of tree photos. Visit it at www.selectree.calpoly.edu□

Drew Potocki has an Urban Forestry degree from Texas A&M and has been with the City for fifteen years.

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AFRICAN VIOLETS

Helen LaGamma

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER only when soil is dry when watering from the top.

TO KEEP all areas clear of plant clutter. Use only clean sterile equipment. Have the area well ventilated.

TO PROVIDE 12 to 14 hours of indirect lighting daily.

TO PROTECT plants from any sudden change in temperature—maintain 65-75°F.

TO POT UP babies in 2½-inch pots using a light, porous, sterile soil with good drainage.

TO PRACTICE preventive measures against insects and disease—have clean hands and clothing.

BEGONIAS

Margaret Lee

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PUT down tubers to sprout.

TO CLEAN all pots and plantings of dead wood, leaves, and old debris.

TO PROTECT roots with a mulch.

TO START feeding; give ¼ strength of any good all-purpose plant food if feeding once a week, ½ strength if twice a month; full strength if once a month.

TO CONTROL disease and pests by spray and bait.

TO KEEP plants moist, but not wet.

TO START new plants from leaves, cuttings, or seeds.

BONSAI

San Diego Bonsai Club

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATCH watering program according to the rains.

TO GRAFT deciduous plants.

TO REPOT plants; shape to conform to the container.

TO REMEMBER deciduous flowering plants need repotting every year, except quince. Conifers may go three to five years without repotting.

TO ADD small amounts of chelated iron or acidifying preparation to correct alkaline (salt) buildup.

TO WATCH for aphids and other pests.

TO WAIT until April to feed. Use a high nitrogen fertilizer for foliage growth; high phosphorus type to set flowers and fruit.

TO USE ¼-strength fertilizer spread several weeks apart, rather than using full strength only once. Measure accurately. Too much fertilizer can burn roots and cause leaf damage.

BROMELIADS

Bromeliad Study Group of Balboa Park

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CHECK plants for scale especially during spring when scale is most likely to appear.

TO TREAT plants with scale by dipping or spraying them thoroughly with a solution of Cygon 2E according to directions on the label. Drain excess solution from plant.

TO KEEP plants clean. Cut spent blooms and dead leaves.

TO REPOT your favorite plants in new potting media. This helps them to develop a healthier growth.

TO ALWAYS provide good drainage and never allow the soil to become soggy.

TO FERTILIZE only during the warm months, once a month, preferring a fertilizer high in acid. Use ½ the recommended strength on the label.

CACTI AND SUCCULENTS

Joseph A. Betzler

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PREPARE plants for spring growth by checking soil and pot condition—transplant if needed. Soil mix should be light and water should flow through freely.

TO FERTILIZE your plants regularly.

TO START acclimating the protected plants to outdoor conditions once again, after danger of frost is gone.

TO PROTECT sensitive plants from the rain and sun; bright sun can burn indoor plants.

TO KEEP newly purchased plants separated from your collection until they show signs of good growth without any pests or disease; treat any pest promptly; watch for snails, also. A wet winter might bring you

rodents; mice and rabbits are cute, but no cacti are safe from their nibbles. Protect your plants.

CAMELLIAS

NOW IS THE TIME

TO KEEP picking up spent blooms and petals to prevent petal blight.

TO SHAPE your bushes now by pruning. Once flowers fade, cut back to increase bushiness, branching, and more flowers next year.

TO CONTINUE to feed iron and 2-10-10 fertilizer for dark green leaves and root development.

TO LOOK for aphids and loopers; if found, spray with malathion.

TO START to feed using a program with cottonseed meal.

DAHLIAS

Abe Janzen

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PLACE tubers in starting medium such as vermiculite or sand. Keep in a warm place to sprout; beware of too much moisture.

TO PREPARE the planting area by adding humus and fertilizer.

TO PLANT sprouted tubers, sprout side up, six inches below ground surface, two inches from stake, and cover with two inches of soil. With little care they are easy to grow and dwarf and bedding types add much beauty to your garden.

TO MOISTEN, but **do not keep wet**.

TO PROTECT new growth from snails.

TO BE SURE to drive stake into ground **before** planting tubers.

EPIPHYLLUMS (Orchid Cactus)

George French

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FEED epiphyllums with a low nitrogen fertilizer.

TO CHECK trellis to be sure plants are well secured.

TO GIVE plants filtered sunlight to encourage development of buds.

TO BAIT for snails. Granules have proven effective when placed at the base of the plant. They leave little or no residue.

TO CHECK for drainage in April. Do not move plants at this time, but continue to feed for bloom; use Hi-Bloom or bloom-builder type to promote healthy buds and bloom.

TO TAKE cuttings.

TO REMOVE buds from a new plant; that energy needs to go to the root system.

FERNS

San Diego Fern Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FERTILIZE with high nitrogen liquid or pellets.

TO REMOVE dead fronds.

TO CATCH rain water for plants in covered areas.

TO DIVIDE, repot, or add leaf mold to those plants needing it.

TO SPRAY for aphids and scale.

TO PLANT spores.

TO USE vitamin B_1 after dividing; use per instructions on label.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME

TO IRRIGATE when new growth begins, if the soil is not moist, to a depth of 3 feet.

TO APPLY fertilizer high in nitrogen. Most mature fruit trees require the equivalent of one pound of actual nitrogen annually. Divide the amount of fertilizer required into three equal lots and apply them six weeks apart, starting in the spring after new growth begins.

TO BEGIN thinning fruit of apples, pears, and stone fruit when they are about ½" in size. Space fruit 4 to 6 inches apart or leave one fruit per spur. Thin early maturing varieties earlier and heavier than late maturing varieties.

TO CHECK trees for pests. Wash foliage periodically with a forceful spray of water to dislodge aphids, spider mites, and whiteflies. If a pesticide is needed, use a chemical that has short residual activity, such as insecticidal soap or pyrethrin to protect beneficial insects.

TO KEEP ants off trees by wrapping a band of heavy paper around the trunk and applying a barrier of Tanglefoot on it, or by scattering diazinon granules on the soil around the trunk.

TO SPRAY apples after bloom to control codling moth (wormy fruit). Apply diazinon after petals have fallen and twice more at two-week intervals.

TO APPLY sulfur dust to control powdery mildew on grapes when new shoots are 6, 12, 18, and 24 inches long. Then, every two weeks or as needed until harvest.

FUCHSIAS

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PRUNE plants not done earlier.

TO PINCH new growth on plants pruned earlier. As the third set of leaves forms on new growth, pinch out the terminal set. This will result in a bushier plant.
TO FERTILIZE with any good balanced fertilizer.
TO WATCH for insects and treat accordingly.
TO WATER thoroughly the day before spraying.
TO CONTINUE taking cuttings from prunings.
TO CLEAN up fallen leaves, blooms and other trash.

GERANIUMS (*Pelargonium*)
Carol Roller

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Allow excess water to drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible. Provide the best possible drainage. Watch for botrytis (gray mold) and treat it immediately.
TO CONTINUE feeding with a balanced fertilizer containing micronutrients. Dissolve in water, using less than the recommended amount as often as needed to keep the plants growing well. As the soil becomes warmer, long-term pellets may be used.
TO CONTINUE pest and disease control, using all products according to the manufacturers' directions.
TO PRUNE ivies and zonals if they have not been pruned. Avoid cutting regals, scenteds, and related types because their flowers will be lost by pruning them at this time.
TO MAKE cuttings from the ivy and zonal prunings, if desired.
TO REMOVE faded flowers and old, discolored leaves.
TO ROTATE pots regularly to produce well-shaped plants.

GREEN THUMB ITEMS

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CUTBACK to the basal foliage some herbaceous perennial plants: mums, columbine, coreopsis, some true geraniums, ornamental grasses, evening primrose, many salvias, and Shasta daisies.
TO PRUNE garden poinsettias in March and again in early July. Share your cuttings by giving 3 foot pieces to friends and neighbors.

HERBS
John Noble

NOW IS THE TIME.

TO DIG and amend the soil in any open areas of your herbal beds and borders.
TO FEED all your perennial herbs a little compost.
TO VISIT herb nurseries for starters and seeds. Try growing some annuals from seeds—anise, basil, cilantro, dill (abcd ...)
TO PRUNE back overgrown lavender, rosemary, thyme, lemon verbena, chaste tree, ...
TO PROTECT young plants from snails. Use organic practices, especially in an herb garden. Experiment with hand picking, beer traps, bran, copper barriers, and/or invite some possums for a midnight picnic.
TO HARVEST from our native herbs — sagebrush, white sage, black sage, Cleveland sage, yerba mansa, yerba santa, elderberry, ...
TO MAKE fresh herbal bouquets with mint, thyme, rosemary, sage,.... Fresh or dried they make great gifts for your gourmet friends.

IRIS
San Diego/Imperial County Iris Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO START feeding low nitrogen, all-purpose, and liquid fish fertilizers.
TO WATER regularly if no rain.
TO CLEAN beds and keep weeds under control.
TO WATCH for pests—systemic sprays applied as a drench will usually free iris of aphids and thrips.
TO GIVE Japanese and Louisiana irises an application of an acid food—a camellia-type fertilizer is convenient to use.

NATIVES
Jeanine De Hart

NOW IS THE TIME

TO SEE the early blooming annuals in the desert and the early blooming California lilac (Ceanothus ssp.) in the back country. In April there are a lot of natives in bloom at Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden in Claremont. It is well worth the drive.
TO CONTINUE baiting for snails. The winter and spring rains will bring them out in droves. Remember, they can be very destructive if left unchecked.
TO NOTICE poorly drained areas in your garden and plant water loving plants there. Two of the monkeyflowers, (*Mimulus cardinalis* and *M. guttatus*) will love a wet situation. Another attractive wetlands plant is lizard tail [or yerba mansa] (*Anemopsis californica*) The four-petaled flower on this plant is actually bracts. They resemble the bracts on our native dogwood tree.
TO CHECK OUT areas in your garden that need planting. Plan before you plant! Native plants will be available at a lot of sales in the fall. Fall is the correct time to buy and plant in order to have the greatest

success. April is also a good time to try growing your own natives. Take cuttings from people you know or grow some from seed. You will enjoy them all the more for having grown them yourself!

TO PLAN YOUR TRIPS in order to see the most natives in bloom. The low desert is good in April, in May try the high desert; Joshua Tree, the Mojave Desert or Lancaster's poppy fields are all good choices. June is the time that natives are beginning to bloom in the mountains. Jerry Schads books are great for checking out good trips. His book titles begin with "Afoot and Afield in." He has written on several counties, one of which is San Diego. Another good book is *Walking San Diego* by Lonnie Hewitt and Barbara Moore. In this book the focus is hikes close to home where both native plants and birds can be seen.

ORCHIDS

Charles Fouquette

NOW IS THE TIME

TO REPOT *Cattleya* plants that have exceeded their pots and are showing new eyes.

TO MOVE *Cymbidium* plants that are in spike to a shadier spot to lessen fading.

TO PROTECT *Cymbidium* plants from possible hail and rain.

TO SET OUT slug and snail bait, check for red spider, scale, and mealybug. Try to keep ants out of your domain: they bring aphids and other pests.

TO CONTINUE even fertilizer feeding of *Phalaenopsis*: plants in bloom should be protected from drafts.

TO GROW the *Oncidium* alliance, *Odontoglossum, Brassia*, etc. with some research. Air movement, light, feeding, and good sodium-free water are some requirements for successful growing.

TO CHECK air cooler and fans; they may need oil.

TO FLUSH and reset any water filters or reverse osmosis units.

TO WATCH for plants that may get sunburned and protect them.

ROSES

Marianne Truby

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER deeply to encourage your bushes to produce strong stems and healthy foliage.

TO WATER roses day before feeding or spraying and again after feeding.

TO VARY the products used to provide the essential nutrients and micro-nutrients for your roses. Roses require a balanced diet to produce the **blooms** for which we grow them. High nitrogen will produce unusually tall bushes, which in many cases appear out of place in our home landscape, and that has contributed to too many negative comments about unattractive bushes. Along with the need for organic materials, we now recognize that nitrogen alone will seldom produce the quality and quantity of bloom we strive to produce.

TO VISIT your roses often to observe and enjoy their growth and revel in the beautiful early foliage.

TO CHECK daily for signs of unwanted pests, early signs of nutrition deficiency, and/or early weeds and grasses.

TO CONTROL aphids by washing them off with a strong stream of water from the hose in the early morning.

TO CONTROL thrips damage to blooms by using Orthinex (available in an atomizer spray) on blooms just as they begin to drop their sepals. Thrips become very active when the local uncared for vegetation dries up because of lack of moisture. Thrips distort the blooms by sucking the moisture from the petals and the bloom fails to open properly.

TO RECORD your garden maintenance efforts. Time does fly when you're having fun!

TO PREPARE to adjust your schedule to weather conditions. Foggy cool days are certain to encourage mildew in the rose garden and an early heat wave means you must water, water, water. To a limited degree, washing off your bushes in the early morning will delay mites and even early mildew.

TO LEARN rose terminology. Particularly become acquainted with the difference between a sucker and a basal break! A sucker is **unwanted** and a basal break is a beginning to a new cane, which is what we are trying to produce so we can cut off the old worn out canes at next year's pruning!

TO ENJOY your roses during these months, weather permitting, the months of glory for roses and rosarians.

TO ATTEND garden shows and appreciate all the wonderful plant materials that abound in Southern California.

TO PLAN for replacement varieties of roses during the growing season by observing carefully roses in gardens in your area. Usually roses that perform well in the coastal areas will not have enough petals to produce good roses in the inland areas. Avoid roses that are susceptible to mildew.

(continued)

VEGETABLES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PREPARE soil for planting by incorporating compost and a complete fertilizer high in phosphorus. Apply chemical fertilizers just before planting. If manures are used, apply them at least two weeks before planting and irrigate to leach salts from the surface soil. Apply twenty pounds of poultry manure or fifty pounds of steer manure per hundred square feet.

TO MAKE a last planting of cool season vegetables such as leaf lettuce, beets, and kohlrabi that will mature before hot summer weather arrives.

TO SET OUT tomato transplants after danger of frost has past. Delay planting beans, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, melons, peppers, and squash until the soil is warm. Use hot caps or floating row covers to promote faster growth.

VEGETABLES, ANNUALS

from UC Cooperative Extension Publications

NOW IS ONE OF THE BEST TIMES IN FROST-FREE AREAS

TO PUT IN TRANSPLANTS OF: cabbage and eggplant.

TO PUT IN SEEDS OF: beans (lima, pole, snap), beets, carrots, chard, corn, cucumbers, endive, gourds, kale, lettuce (leaf), melons (cantaloupe, casaba), okra, onions (green), parsley, parsnips, peas (bush), peppers, radishes, spinach (in March), squash (summer and winter), tomatoes, turnips, and watermelon — ageratum, amaranthus, balsam, canterbury bells, carnations, celosia, coleus, cosmos, daisies (African), dusty miller, four o'clocks, impatiens, lobelia, marigold, morning glory, nasturtium, petunia, phlox, portulaca, salvia, scabiosa, statice, tithonia, verbena, vinca, zinnias.

A MALLOW FOR PONDS

BY JOHNNY STELLINI

IF YOU HAPPENED TO go by the Botanical Building in Balboa Park during the summer months, you may have noticed the *Hibiscus coccineus* growing in the shallows of the small ☞ pond. Commonly called the scarlet rose mallow, it is native to the coastal swamps of Georgia and Florida.

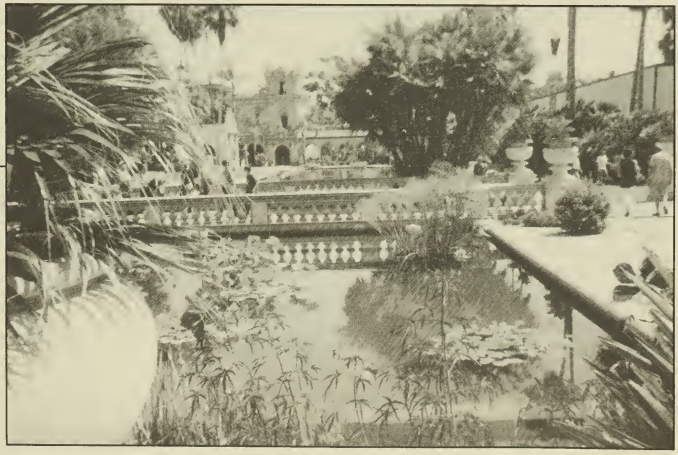
The plant is a perennial herb with bright red glaucous stalks of about six feet. Its foliage is very striking, the underside of the leaf is bright green with red veins while the upper side tends to be mostly dark red with bright green areas adjacent to the veins. The leaf shape is palmate with three to five or seven lobes. It is linear-lanceolate and remotely toothed giving it its other common name of water hemp.

The flowers though sparse are a real knockout: bright scarlet about six inches across. The five petals are about one and one-half inches wide at the tip, narrowing to a point at the base where they contrast nicely with bright green calyx and a long column of stamens at its center.

The plant is an herbaceous perennial, meaning its stalks are not woody; rather pith centered and soft. The stalks die down to the soil line around December. The seed pods, which are attractive, remain on the stalks after they die. You could leave the stalks for winter interest or cut for dried arrangements.

We grow our rose mallow in five gallon pots sitting in twelve to eighteen inches of water. The soil line is about five inches above the water line. When potting the plants up put some large cobblestones or bricks in the bottom of the pot for weight and stability. Use a peat rich topsoil or outdoor mix. The mix should not contain perlite or wood shavings or they will flood out of pot when set in the water. Pot the plants to about three inches below the rim of the pot.□

Johnny Stellini has been a San Diego Park and Recreation Department employee for nineteen years. He is a nursery gardener at the Botanical Building in Balboa Park.



YOU CAN GROW FLOWERS FOR ARRANGING

BY CARVILL VEECH

GARDENING AND FLOWER ARRANGING make a wonderful combination of hobbies for self expression and creativity. Opportunities abound with flower show competitions, church and library flowers, gift giving, and flowers for your home. **Selecting garden flowers for their usefulness in flower arranging will allow you to have fresher and more unusual flowers than are available in the market and will save the time and money involved in buying cut flowers.**

In the previous issue, foliage for designs was described. There are fewer flowers, but I want to share my favorites. Gardens containing flowers suitable for flower arranging are often referred to as "cutting" gardens, but I can find flowers in all gardens whether designed for cutting or not. Unusual flowers increase viewer interest and make an arrangement distinctive, which enhances competition.

Most gardens have a variety of flowers and foliage that are suitable for cutting for designs, and some that are not suitable because of their short "vase life" when cut. As an avid gardener and flower arranger, I try to strike a balance in my small garden—some flowers to stay in the garden and some for cutting. For most gardeners, cutting their own flowers can be an emotional, almost painful, experience especially when long stems required for arranging also can remove several growth buds.

My garden is *Sunset* Zone 24 (USDA Zone 10) with marine influence along the Southern California coast. All coastal gardens from Imperial Beach to Santa Barbara are in Zone 24, which provides and ideal climate for ornamental gardening.

It is fun to keep an eye out for unusual varieties or cultivars of plants you already grow because they are often more interesting than the more commonly offered commercial varieties. Some flowers are so handsome in arrangements that even though they have a short vase life, such as the *Romneya coulteri* (Matilija poppy) they are worth growing.

Annuals, perennials, bulbs, corms, tubers, and rhizomes can be timed to provide year round blooms for flower arranging. The list of annuals is short while the list of perennials is long. The firm, woody stem of many perennials makes arranging easier than delicate stems of most annuals.

Consider the use of berries and fruits from shrubs and trees in addition to or in place of flowers. *Nandina domestica* (heavenly bamboo) has bright red berries twice a year, loquat (*Eriobotrya*) and kumquat (*Fortunella*) trees offer pale green or orange fruit clusters.

ANNUALS

Cosmos Summer and early fall daisy-like flowers in whites and purples make good cutting flowers if placed into cool water immediately after cutting

Consolida ambigua (larkspur, annual delphinium) Spring and early summer bloomer on 1-5′ spires of blues, lilac, pink, or white.

Gerbera jamesonii 'Happipot' (Transvaal daisy) Year round, but early summer and late fall are peak periods. Four-inch daisies in many colors on single stems. Excellent for arranging but turn toward the light so stems are often wired. [perennial, often grown as annual]

Nigella damascena 'Miss Jekyll' (love-in-a-mist) Spring brings beautiful light blue flowers on a collar of threadlike leaves. Interesting seed pods form in summer for dried arrangements.

PERENNIALS

Achillea filipendulina 'Gold Plate' or 'Coronation Gold' (fernleaf yarrow) (4-5′) or 'Taygetea' (1½′)

Bright yellow flower heads in large, flat-topped clusters in summer and fall. Excellent for air-drying.

Anigozanthos flavidus (kangaroo paw) Furry kangaroo paw-like flowers on long wiry stems in yellow, red, or green; these are excellent in pots and add interest to arrangements.

Camellia japonica Many varieties of this handsome shrub or small tree bloom October through May. These are very effective used alone or in simple arrangements with their own foliage.

Chrysanthemum parthenium (feverfew) In summer and fall perfect tiny white daisies on light green feather foliage are good as a filler material in small arrangements.

Hydrangea macrophylla (bigleaf hydrangea, garden hydrangea) In summer and fall under partial shade, large clusters of pastel to burgundy flowers up to 9″ across, use fresh, air-dried, or glycerin treated.

Limonium perezii (sea lavender) Year round billowy clouds of purple flowers with a touch of white on sturdy stems, these are ideal for a coastal garden.

Limonium sinuatum (statice) Long lasting airy clusters of blue, lavender, or rose with white corolla This is one of the most useful flowers fresh or air-dried.

Rosa (rose) Roses are ideal for keeping in the garden and for cutting. All roses are suitable for arrangements but some hybrid teas come on stronger, longer stems and are considered to have more ideal form. Cut from the bush when one-half to three-quarters open and recut under water to prevent air bubbles in the stem, roses will last for up to a week in an arrangement if the water is kept clean. Hybrid teas, grandiflora, miniatures, polyanthas, old roses—the choices are endless, but every cutting garden should have some. My favorite hybrid teas are 'Touch of Class', 'Brigadoon', and 'Gold Medal'. 'Altissimo' and 'Flutterby' are single-petaled climbers. 'Gourmet Popcorn' and 'Jean Kenneally' are two wonderful miniatures.

Sedum telephium 'Autumn Joy' produces lovely coppery rose-colored clusters of small, star-like flowers with fleshy leaves. This succulent can be grown in containers or rock gardens.

Strelitzia reginae (bird of paradise) Proud, erect purple and orange bird-like flowers are very long lasting and showy.

Verbena bonariensis, This handsome plant will reign over your garden to produce 3-6′ stems with open purple flowers in summer.

BULBS, CORMS, TUBERS, AND RHIZOMES

Alstroemeria (Peruvian lily) (corm) These flowers are perfection in an arrangement—long lasting, and silk-like in appearance. Litgu hybrids produce azalea-like flowers on sturdy stems in a fabulous array of colors and shades. Meyer and Cordu hybrids are evergreen and have a long blooming season. Pull the stem from the base rather than cutting it.

Freesia (corm) Fragrant, colorful, tubular flowers on slender but strong stems. Plant in ground or containers in fall for spring bloom.

Iris (tall bearded iris) (rhizome) Bloom mid-spring to early summer on branching stems 2½-4′ tall in an infinite variety of colors and blends. Remontant, or reblooming, bearded iris bloom in mid to late fall, or winter. So beautiful you will not know where to stop, but you can divide them and share with friends when they outgrow their spot.

Lilium (lily) (bulb) Both Asiatic and Oriental hybrids and species are excellent for large containers. Never let them dry out because they never go completely dormant. Some have upwardly facing flowers, which are preferred for arranging. These generally bloom in summer.

Ranunculus asiaticus (Persian ranunculus) (tuber) The colors are so beautiful you won't want to cut these spring flowers, but if you do they will brighten an arrangement or a small room with their perfect silky petals.

Zantedeschia aethiopica (calla) (rhizome) Spring and early summer bring creamy or pure white flowers on 3′ stems. 'Green Goddess' is a green and white variegated variety, very highly prized by arrangers. Select a variety that produces the size you want, e.g., 'Hercules' is very large and 'Minor' is small. Pastel colors are available.

There are hundreds more flowers that can be grown and cut for use in design. These are the "tried and true" few. If you plant some of these you will enjoy looking at them out in your garden or in a flower show. □

Carvill Veech is a member of the Crown Garden Club of Coronado, chairman of the Flower Arrangers Guild of SDFA, and a UCCE Master Gardener.

ERRATUM

In the January-February 2002 issue, page 22 (93:1:22), in the question about avocados, an error was made in the name of the parasite of bees. The correct name is varroa mite (*Varroa jacobsoni* Oudemans).

A FLORAL TRADITION THAT UNITES A TOWN

BY MERIDITH METZGER

FOR NEARLY EIGHT DECADES, the island community of Coronado has followed its spring tradition of refurbishing gardens throughout the village and staging Southern California's premier flower show.

The annual Coronado Flower Show will be held April 13-14, celebrating seventy-seven years as a community-loved event. All residents, young and old, are encouraged to participate in a friendly competition of showcasing their home front gardens and to join San Diego exhibitors in the well-known flower show. This year's theme is "Expressions of Nature."

As with most traditions, the Coronado Flower Show began with a simple idea. Way back in 1922, Coronado was suffering the effects of a political battle between business factions and many residents had taken sides. A feud was in full swing over development issues between the famous Spreckels family and Wilmot Grifiss, the vice president of Coronado's local banks. The town's local paper helped fuel the hotly debated arguments raging through the community and even printed personal attacks on the Spreckels family. The political atmosphere had seriously strained neighborly relations.

Coronado historians credit Maude Taylor with developing the idea of hosting a community flower show to unite her feuding neighbors. She succeeded in convincing her husband, Harold Taylor, to take on the project. He ran the flower show from its introduction in 1922 and served as the Coronado Floral Association president for the next ten years.

Today, hotly debated political issues are still a colorful part of the Coronado community. Arguments for and against such issues as building a Fourth Street tunnel to the North Island Naval Air Station; the development of peripheral roads to reduce traffic congestion away from the center of the village; and a myriad of building code restrictions regarding residential and commercial construction continue to create plenty of fodder for neighborly discourse.

Yet Coronado, which is affectionately known as the Crown City, nearly eighty years later still comes together every spring to set aside community differences and put on its famous flower show. The event has been held in its large, tree-shaded public park since 1922. The show, which began at a cost of ten dollars, has grown to become the largest tented flower show in Southern California and is sponsored by the Coronado Floral Association in conjunction with the City of Coronado.

Visitors in the 1920s were admitted free, but by 1932 the cost of admission had soared to a whopping ten cents, undoubtedly to offset the costs of a new tent enclosure to house the ever-growing show. A parade, complete with floats and bands, was added the following year and was led by the Coronado Rotary Club, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion. By 1937, what would become a favorite section of the show, the wildflower exhibit, was introduced and remains today an impressive collection of cut wildflowers indigenous to Southern California.

The Coronado Flower Show is definitely a slice of Americana. In its early years, it was sustained solely by donations from the private sector. Coronado schools loaned desks and typewriters; the Hotel del Coronado provided trellises and tables; and even the local Boy Scout troops camped in the park to provide security on the weekend of the show. During WWII the flower show was not held due to national defense efforts, but the popular event resumed in full force in 1946.

Today's show provides opportunities for exhibitors throughout San Diego County to showcase roses, floral arrangements, and plants. It even includes a children's section for exhibition of floral arrangements, seed plate designs, and the popular Zoo's Who section of whimsical creations from fruits and vegetables.

Exhibitors participate in a wide selection of flower-related divisions. These include themed design arrangements of cut flowers exhibited in shadow boxes, a miniature arrangement section, a tabletop design section including formal and informal table settings, holiday theme tents, and numerous other classical floral designs exhibits.

The show also includes sections for cut roses, orchids, hanging plants, cactus, and bonsai, also the wildflower exhibit, and booths on garden cultivating and recycling. A men's section provides a chance for political satire in a comical blend of floral creation and commentary.

The two-day event in April follows a community-wide home front judging where residents and businesses throughout Coronado groom gardens and plant flowers in order to showcase their properties. Every home, business, and church is judged and winners are presented with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons. The top ten properties are awarded special distinction ribbons.

For further information, please call 619/435-8976, or 435-4422. Exhibit entry forms may be picked up from the Coronado Library at 640 Orange Avenue. □

Gleanings . . .

gathered by barbara jones

OLYMPIC FLOWERS . . .
The bouquets (called "Olympic Harmony") that were given to the winners of individual events in the 2002 Winter Olympics were made of a mixture of roses, sunflowers, delphiniums, gerberas, statice, and alstroemerias. All held together with gold foil. Another bouquet ("Olympic Pinnacle") was presented to the winners at an evening ceremony. Each of these bouquets consisted of twenty-five yellow roses bound with ribbon to look like a torch.

The winners of the original Olympian Games held in ancient Greece (776 B.C.) were crowned with wreaths of wild olive and given a palm frond.

The modern adaption of the ancient Olympian Games called Olympic Games were begun in Athens, Greece in 1896. At this time it is not known if the winners were given any form of horticultural recognition.

LAUREL WREATHS . . .
The ancient Romans fashioned wreaths of laurel (sweet bay) to crown victors. Doctors who passed their final exams were crowned with a wreath made of branches of laurel with berries. The word *baccalaureate* (*bacca* = berry and *laureus* = of laurel) is from this custom. The modern word bachelor used for a graduate college degree is a modified form of the word *baccalaureate*.

Laurel (*Laurus nobilis*) grows well in San Diego. It is a lovely evergreen ornamental shrub that can be sheared. It grows well in large tubs, so makes a handsome plant for a patio, porch, or deck. It can grow in full sun or shaded for part of the day. It does need good loamy soil, regular watering, and it is a heavy feeder. Liquid fertilizer works best for container plants. Yes, this is the bay leaf used in cooking. If you have a plant not only can you pick fresh seasoning, but laurel makes a wonderful smelling wreath for the kitchen or for a gift for a friend.

SOIL . . .
The extensive media coverage, especially TV, after the dreadful 9/11 terrorist attack in New York City emphasized how fortunate we are to live in San Diego. The pictures really showed how ugly and inhospitable it is when there are no plants or soil in the environment. "Asphalt jungle" is a term used to describe the sections of large cities where there is no plant life—only cement, glass, etc. We are fortunate that we have only a few small "jungles" in San Diego.

A few plants can survive in the inner city in pots, but for the most part it takes soil, not dirt, to provide the anchorage and supply the water and nutrients that plants need. Soil is an admixture of air, water, organic material, and minerals. (An average soil is considered to be about 20-30% air, 20-30% water, 5% organic, 45% mineral.) It is the loose, weathered, uppermost layer of the earth's lithosphere. It ranges from less than one inch to several feet in depth. The best soil is called **loam**. This consists of clay, silt, sand, and humus. Sand is small pieces of decomposed rocks or minerals; silt is midway between sand and clay; clay is the smallest rock/mineral particle (holds water well); and humus is decomposed vegetative and animal matter. It is possible to estimate the composition of a soil by placing a small portion of soil in a quart of water, shaking well, and letting it settle. (Scrape off any mulch before taking the soil.) The various materials will settle out in layers. (The thin white layer is clay.)

Even though people often refer to soil as "dirt," dirt according to the dictionary is a word used to indicate a foul or filthy substance.

PLANT TRIVIA . . .
Over 95% of the dry material of a typical plant is made up of carbon, oxygen, and hydrogen. These come from water (H_2O) taken from the soil and carbon dioxide (CO_2) taken from the atmosphere.

Most plants are composed primarily of water. For this reason, the amount of water in soil available to the roots is important. It is estimated that to produce 2¼ pounds of plant material it takes 550 pounds of water. Water is necessary for photosynthesis.

Carbon dioxide for photosynthesis and oxygen are taken in by plants from the atmosphere.

Most plants prefer a soil with a neutral pH—neither acid nor alkaline. Some plants only grow well in acid soils and a few grow well in alkaline soils. Our soil here is usually alkaline. The carnation, San Diego's official flower, does well in our alkaline soil.

Book Reviews

GARDEN TALKS: Ask Me Anything
C.Z. Guest
New York, Universe Publishing, 2001, 352 pages, 39 color photos, 24 b&w photos, 7½" x 9½", softcover, $27.50

C.Z. Guest lives on a Long Island estate where she gardens nearly full time when not socializing with the rich and famous of the east coast establishment. In spite of her affluent background, she is a true down to earth gardener. For the past twenty-five years has written a nationally syndicated garden column, "Garden Talk," in which she answers readers' questions. Organized around the seasons with a huge index, it is rich in information. It could be most useful for problem solving, rather than straight reading . . . although that, too, might lead to some unexpected nuggets of wisdom.

Arranged alphabetically by season, the headings in Winter, the first section, begin with *Aloe vera* and a question about its use as a cosmetic, before moving on to several pages of a discussion of Annual Flowers. Then comes a few paragraphs about Annuals for Transition, a short paragraph on Ashes and then a boxed page on Asparagus Tips. It is an eclectic collection of topics, as also seen in the pages following, that cover Bamboo, Bean Beetles, Bedmates (Compatible), and Beehives.

Although much of it is relevant exclusively to the East coast, there are many ideas that translate anywhere; several pages on Kids and Gardening-A Perfect Match are found in the Spring section, and the Summer section includes a full discussion of Composting. Following the Four Seasons sections is another one on Holidays that is full of gift ideas, to plant and to make, and holiday decorating.

Photographs of the Guest estate and of C.Z. gardening in it add to the personal nature of this book. The author is an energetic and generous gardener, sharing her joy in all things green and growing with all who care to receive it.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

URBAN SANCTUARIES: Peaceful Havens for the City Gardener
Stephen Anderton
Portland, Timber Press, 2001, 144 pages, 143 color photos, 11½" x 8¾", hardcover, $29.95

For those of us here in Southern California who have watched with astonishment as the hillsides become covered with homes, usually two stories high with double garages on small or medium lots with little or no garden space, this title would almost seem an unattainable dream! The author has accepted the challenge. Would that the ideas presented here be promoted and duplicated throughout the gardening world at garden centers and in gardening publications. While efforts to create vistas with extensive lawns, trees, and everblooming flowers are being promoted in our garden magazines and tours of large estates of earlier days—reality points out the need for a different approach to today's garden needs. Walled gardens were originally designed to protect us from nature and other unwanted intruders, today's gardeners are in need of a peaceful garden (a sanctuary to find peace, rejuvenation and privacy).

The need to design these small spaces into a sanctuary, a peaceful haven, is the subject of this book. The author considers the need for low maintenance, but includes opportunities for water features and other personal desires. To find pleasure in a garden is a personal thing. Do you come to the garden to rest, to enjoy the sky, collect a particular plant, listen to a fountain, or just dream the impossible? All can be yours with proper planning and realistic use of available space!

A directory of plants—tough, easy to grow plants that provide flowers or foliage as a foundation upon which you can develop your own interests are included. The pictures of various solutions to roof, balcony, and problem areas are sure to inspire you to develop your own peaceful haven.

Reviewed by Marianne Truby

WINDOW BOX ALLOTMENT: A Beginner's Guide to Container Gardening
Penelope Bennett
Ebury Press, Distributed by Trafalgar Square, 2001, 219 pages, softcover, $16.95

Gardening out of her third floor flat in London, the author has developed a keen appreciation for the tiniest details in the seed-to-plant process. Claiming pity for those who purchase bedding plants, she revels in the observation of seeds, usually planted in compost inside the window, as they sprout seedlings to be moved outside. In spite of the obvious seasonal differences, her month by month planting guide includes much information for small scale growing

at eye level; in fact, she almost convinces the reader that it is the best, if not the only, way to go!

Writing in a breezy conversational tone, Bennett thoroughly explores the many ways to compost and raise worms indoors. Rich soil is obviously an essential element to her success, as is a resourceful use of cats' grooming combs and pencils as rakes and planting guides. She also reveals the way to grow oyster mushrooms on toilet paper rolls. Many projects she describes also could be a fine way to introduce children to the mystery and wonders of plant life.

It is all good fun for her, especially in the recipes that are scattered throughout the text. The first one is for bread, which, while not requiring much from the window box garden, provides good hand exercise that will come in handy when preparing the soil. A most exotic crop is saffron, which is harvested (painstakingly) from stamens of *Crocus sativa*. In between are instructions for preparing leafy vegetables, ("the water must be boiling **before** they are picked,"). One recipe is for Chinese sweet and sour radish salad and basil butter.

This is a small, simply printed volume, with handsome woodcut illustrations heading each monthly chapter, and lots of white space between sections where readers could add notes of their own.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

BULBS OF NORTH AMERICA
Jane McGary, Editor
Portland, North American Rock Garden Society and Timber Press, 2001, 308 pages, 101 color photos, 4 line drawings, 6″ x 9″, hardcover, $34.95

This collection of articles on North American bulbs written by Americans (all but one) fills a gap in bulb literature. There are a surfeit of books on Mediterranean, Mideast, and South African bulbs, but little available on those native to North America.

Chapters on *Allium*, *Amaryllidaceae*, *Brodiaea* Alliance (*Bloomeria, Brodiaea, Dichelostemma*, and *Triteleia*), *Calochortus*, *Erythronium*, *Fritillaria*, and *Lilium* are followed by Irids, bulbs of the southeast, bulbs of the northwest, bulbs of the southwest, and bulbs of eastern North America.

I found many surprises in these chapters. For instance, in the chapter on "Genus Allium" those of California are covered in a separate section of the chapter, as about half those native to North America are native to California. The Jepson Manual lists fifty-nine species and subspecies.

The large genus *Calochortus* is found only in western North America and Mesoamerica. The largest number of species (twenty-six) is in California. According to Frank Callahan (contract botanist for the U. S. Forest Service) *Calochortus* has no close relatives in the New World and only *Tulipa* bears a resemblance to it in the Old World. He believes it exhibits enough distinctive characteristics to "warrant consideration as a monotypic family." History buffs will be interested to know that Lewis and Clark collected *C. elegans* in present-day Idaho.

Another bulb that the American species was unknown to me is the *Crinum*. This genus is known mainly for its bell shaped flowers and is native to Asia and South Africa. But there is also a spidery form that describes *Crinum americanum*. It is known as swamp lily and is native to southeast United States.

Authors that may be familiar to readers are Mary Irish, co-author of *Agavaceae*, who has written the chapter on bulbs of the southwest, and Alan W. Meerow, author of *Betrock's Guide to Landscape Palms* who has written the chapter on Amaryllidaceae.

The photos are very good, and sources for purchase of bulbs and seeds are given, including the Theodore Payne Foundation.

Reviewed by R. Cox

BULBOPHYLLUMS AND THEIR ALLIES: A Grower's Guide
Emily S. Siegrist
Portland, Timber Press, 2001, 296 pages, 77 color photos, 6″ x 9″, Hardcover, $34.95

Emily Siegerist began as an amateur orchidist and is now a Harvard Fellow and a research associate of the Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium at Harvard.

Orichidaceae along with Asteraceae are usually considered the largest plant families. Within Orchidaceae one of the larger genera is *Bulbophyllum*. This has not been a very popular group because of their lack of beauty compared to other orchids and the fact that some produce an unpleasant odor when flowering.

These orchids are thought to have originated in or around Malaysia, where most species are found. They are found as far away as Australia, Madagascar, Africa, with a few even found in South and Central America. Some species were first described in 1830 with the latest having been defined in 1996 and 1997.

Bulbophyllums in addition to three characteristics common to all orchids "have a column which extends into a distinct foot forming a mentum." By describing 375 (of a much larger total) species of *Bulbophyllum*, providing historical information, and giving some advice on growing techniques and conditions the author hopes to make this genus more appreciated among orchid enthusiasts. This book is aimed at both the beginner and the experienced grower.

Reviewed by R. Cox

TREES AND GARDENS OF BALBOA PARK

Kathy Puplava and Paul Sirois

San Diego, Tecolote Publications, City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department, 2001, 136 pages, color photos, 6″ x 9″, spiral bound, $25

This field guide to the trees of Balboa Park will be welcomed by those who often walk in the Park, those who are interested in trees (especially those wanting to learn more about the trees in the Park), and visitors, even those limited to a short time in the Park.

The Park now has a total of approximately 381 species of trees and close to half these are at least mentioned here. Sixty-one non-palm and seventeen palm genera are featured in the 106 trees included (each with a full page color photo.) Many additional species are listed at the end of each narrative with information as to where you will find them.

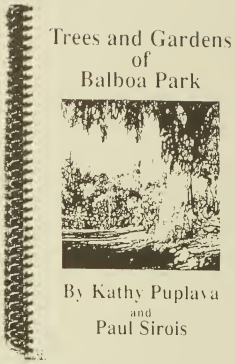
The format is clear and informative. Descriptions of trees include family, nativity, size of tree, common name and details of leaves, flowers, and fruit. Most genera also have illustrations of the leaf, flower, and sometimes seed pods. The map inserts on each page show not only where to find that tree but identifies those planted nearby. The photos are excellent and the photographer, Greg Lambert, is to be congratulated on his fine work.

Many non-palms have quotations about trees, some well known and some not so familiar. Octavio Paz is quoted under *Taxodium mucronatum,* which is native to Mexico, and the poet Pablo Neruda quoted under *Tabebuia impetiginosa,* which is native to Brazil (I believe he is Chilean, but in any case South American.) My favorite quotation is on the page for *Pyrus kawakamii* "Woodman, spare that tree!" The text tells us that since they were planted in the mid-1970s and have just about completed their life span they will be replaced with queen palms.

The palms have interesting facts called "Palm Notes" on each palm genera page, *Eucalyptus* and *Ficus* have special notes. The history of the *Eucalyptus* in the Park and its current pest problems is covered. In addition to the six *Ficus* that are pictured, another twenty-one species are listed (again with location).

The gardens in Balboa Park are described and some of their history given. I thought I knew the Park pretty well, but I had never heard of the 1935 Cactus Garden, nor of Starlight Canyon (Twenty-eight Street on the East Mesa). Besides introducing new gardens to some readers, there is a lot of historical data condensed in these garden descriptions.

The last section is the listing of blooming periods for the trees listed by the four seasons. An additional note of the bloom period on each page would be helpful and is



easy to add yourself. Those knowing only the common names of the trees may need to do some flipping through the pages to find a specific tree as there is no cross index by common name.

Kathy Puplava has been Horticulturist for the City of San Diego, Park and Recreation Department since 1988. She is also responsible for the landscaping of Presidio and Mission Hills Parks. Paul Sirois has been with the Park and Recreation Department since 1993 and his current title is Park Arborist. Their knowledge and experience is evident throughout the book.

Reviewed by R. Cox

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18-page Catalog $1.00

Gardener's Market April 6

The MiraCosta Horticulture Club of Oceanside will hold its sixth annual Gardener's Market Plant Sale from 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 6 at the west Oceanside Wal-Mart store 2100 Vista Way at the Jefferson exit. Proceeds will be used to fund MiraCosta College student scholarships. Monthly club meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday at MiraCosta College. All are welcome. For more information call (760) 643-0177.

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619/232-5762, located in Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park

Under the sponsorship of the Park & Recreation Department, City of San Diego, California

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2002
April 16
June 18
October 15
Casa del Prado, Room 101
Balboa Park, San Diego

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Co-Pres: Jane McKee 760-728-6373
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Last Thu - 9:30 am, Fallbrook Presbyterian Church on Stage Coach
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E-mail: cmdoggett@cs.com
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SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC.
Information Telephone 619-699-8776
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Beginning & intermediate classes at 9:00 am before meeting

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Quail Gardens

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E-mail: keikiman@aol.com
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E-mail: kenasplumeria@aol.com

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FAX 619-687-0151

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AFFILIATES:

Send changes to: Lynn Beyerle, Affiliates Editor, *California Garden*, 1650 El Prado #105, San Diego CA 92101-1622. Call 619-232-5762.

Deadline for May-Jun issue: Mar 15, 2002

Are you aware that each affiliate group is entitled to a free advertisement once each year? It should be "camera ready" (suitable to be sent to printer). The text should be enclosed in a border. The border must be included when measuring dimensions, which are to be 3.5 (3½) inches wide by 2.25 (2¼) inches high. If done on a computer, please use a font that does not resemble typewriting.

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Gourd Bird House or Bird Feeder
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□ $45 series, members, April 16, 23, 30
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Saturday April 27, 2002 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM $10 per person
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CASA DEL PRADO, ROOM 104, BALBOA PARK
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Bring a lunch, coffee will be provided
Register with San Diego Floral Association office, 619/232-5762, Call MARIE WALSH 619/298-5182 for more information
PLEASE PREREGISTER! CLASS SIZES LIMITED

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Tuesday, March 5, 2002
Instructor: Mary Jean Wydro — Learn unique ways to decorate a gourd using a dremel tool and a wood-burning tool. Some tools are available, but bring your own if available. Fee: $30, includes one gourd.

ALL GREEN FLOWER ARRANGEMENT
Tuesday, March 12, 2002
Instructors: Kathy and Marie Walsh
Inspired by St. Patrick's Day. Bring clippers, all other supplies furnished.
FEE: $30 members, $35 nonmembers
Reservations a **must** by March 5th.

GOURD BIRD HOUSE OR BIRD FEEDER
Tuesday, March 19, 2002
INSTRUCTOR: Jewel Nagel. Design and paint either house or feeder
FEE: $30, including gourd and all supplies.

PLAIN OLD BASKET FROM NATURE
TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2002
INSTRUCTORS: Martha Rosenberg and Kathy Walsh
All supplies included, bring towel and a bucket.
FEE: $30 members, $35 nonmembers.

BAMBOO VASES
Tuesday, April 9, 2002
Instructor: Kathy Walsh. Come and create a vase with Kathy—a new idea. Bamboo supplied.
FEE: $25

THREE-SESSION FLOWER ARRANGING
Tuesdays, April 16, 23, 30, 2002
Instructor: Velma West. In preparation for ART ALIVE. Bring vase, clippers, some showy blooms, filler flowers, and greenery. Beginners and advanced arrangers are welcome. FEE: $45 for series for members. $50 for nonmembers.

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION TOUR

WORKMAN AND TEMPLE FAMILY HOMESTEAD MUSEUM
and
THE FULLERTON ARBORETUM
SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2002

Great interest and excitement have been expressed about this bus tour and not just by me! It looks to be great fun! Homestead advises to wear comfortable shoes and clothes. Dress appropriately for the weather. (Do not forget your hat.) We can leave extra items on the bus. "Please be aware there are minimal places to sit and rest during the tour" (approximately one hour and fifteen minutes). The Homestead asks that no photographs be taken during the tour. Arrangements can be made for photographs after the tour.

Fullerton Arboretum is unable to provide a docent led tour for Saturday. Excellent maps will be provided for a self-guided tour and everything is well marked. It was a trade-off. Plant sales and the Gift Shop are available only on Saturday.

We will be traveling with Sun Diego Charter Company/Fundiego Tours. Lunch will be on our own with several choices available.

Your check will be your receipt. No tickets will be issued. The price, **$40.00** includes admissions and gratuities.

Feel free to call . . . I'm flexible and pretty full of answers. Jerry 619-232-2661.

WORKMAN AND TEMPLE FAMILY HOMESTEAD MUSEUM AND FULLERTON ARBORETUM
SATURDAY 4 MAY 2002

☐ $40

Lunch is on your own

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PICK-UPS

☐ Old Navy Hospital Parking Lot on Park Blvd. 7:30AM
☐ Park and Ride at 710 La Costa Ave., Carlsbad 8:15AM

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MARCH 15-17, 2002
Friday, 6 pm - 10 pm
Saturday, 9 am - 6 pm
Sunday, 9 am - 4 pm

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Limit of one discount per person {CAG/3-2002}

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"Through the Garden Gate"

Saturday, April 27

10 am - 4 pm

$12 in advance

$18 day of the event

Tickets @ Mission Hills Nursery as of March 1

www.missionhillsnursery.com

The Flower Arrangers Guild
Of the San Diego Floral Association
Presents a

Floral Design Show in Balboa Park

"Spring is in the Air"

Saturday, March 30, 2002

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Room 101 - Casa del Prado
Balboa Park

Admission Free

The Annual Coronado Flower Show

"Expressions of Nature"

In Coronado's Spreckels Park
Between 6th and 7th on Orange Aveue

Saturday, April 13, 1-5:30 pm
Sunday, April 14, 10am-4pm

Public invited to enter Horticulture and Design
Schedule available at Coronado Library; For entry information call 619-435-8079

Adult $3.00 Children under 12 free Members free

Pascua Farms and Nursery

~ Premium Quality Plants and Produce ~

Specialty Plants, Exotic fruits & vegetables, Cut Flowers & Fresh Herbs. Design, Consultation, and Delivery Services Available

John R. Allen
2464 Willow Glen Dr.ElCajon,CA92109
Note: Our Hours vary, Please Call
(619)778-7650 or 579-8477
To confirm times and availability.

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